

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract, with the following rewritten abstract:

~~To achieve an improved support for introduction of server pools in packet networks and further to achieve transparency for applications, the present invention provides a communication apparatus running a protocol stack implementation for interworking between a signaling source node and a signaling target node. The communication apparatus comprises a first protocol implementation unit (SCTP) adapted to run a signaling control layer on top of a packet transfer network (IP) for exchange of signaling messages via at least one signaling association. Further, the communication apparatus comprises a second protocol implementation unit (SUA, M3UA) adapted to run a user adaptation layer on top of the signaling control layer (SCTP) for support of signaling connection control services (RANAP) used by the signaling source node. A name mapping unit is adapted to receive a signaling target node name from the signaling source node and to map the signaling target node name into a peer signaling association.~~

(Fig. 3)

A communication apparatus running a protocol stack implementation for interworking between a signaling source node and a signaling target node provides improved support for introducing server pools in packet networks and for achieving transparency for applications. A first protocol implementation unit (SCTP) runs a signaling control layer on top of a packet transfer network (IP) for exchanging signaling messages via one or more signaling associations. A second protocol implementation unit (SUA, M3UA) runs a user adaptation layer on top of the signaling control layer (SCTP) for supporting signaling connection control services (RANAP) used by the signaling source node. A name mapping unit receives a signaling target node name from the signaling source node and maps the name into a peer signaling association.